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SOUTH AFRICA'S LESSON TO US.

Small as the Boer republics are, and unlike as they are to us in almost every respect, the experience they are undergoing now has its lessons for us. Why is it that they can do England no harm, but must wait helplessly until their enemy is ready to deal them their death blow? Not because they are outnumbered—nations have fought against odds before and have inflicted frightful injuries on their antagonists. It is simply because they are totally destitute of sea power. They can harry the British colonists on their borders; they can attack isolated military posts, but they cannot touch England, because they have not a keel afloat to get at her with.

Nor can they interfere with her military plans. England can mobilize her armies at home and transport them to South Africa in perfect safety, without the fear that even a torpedo boat will interfere with their uneventful progress.

It was the same lesson that was taught in our war with Spain. The Spaniards, on paper at least, had a million trained soldiers who could be called to the colors at a moment's notice in case of need. We did not have a hundred thousand. The Spanish generals boasted that they could land fifty thousand men on our coast and march to Washington. Yet not a single Spanish soldier touched American soil except as a prisoner. We raised an army and trained it after a fashion at our leisure, and when we got entirely ready we sent sixteen thousand men without a general to an island garrisoned by two hundred thousand Spanish troops, and this headless crowd of ours besieged a fortified city and eventually compelled its defenders to surrender not only the city, but a whole province, while men enough to push our army into the sea were huddled in the other end of the island, unable to move a finger to help their comrades.

Why? Sea power again. The Spanish soldiers could not swim the ocean, and they could not march from one end of Cuba to the other fast enough to keep up with events.

France thinks she has four million disciplined troops in her active army and reserves. England could not scrape together more than 700,000, and most of those are to the French as militia to regulars. Yet France accepted from England at Fashoda an affront that rankles as deeply as the loss of Alsace and Lorraine. She took it because she could not help it. She knew that her army could do nothing against England's navy.

A great navy not only promises success in war, but it gives an assurance that the war, if it comes, will be fought away from home, will leave the daily life of the country untouched, and will bring no distress to non-combatants, except the few who have relatives in service. It will make invasion impossible. Even an inferior navy can do that, if it is good of its kind and well managed.

When we once get through with what General Lawton is variously represented as having called this "accursed," this "damnable," or this "damned" war in the Philippines, we can reduce our army to 25,000 or 30,000 men. Native gendarmes, for the most part, will be able to preserve order in the islands when their people have learned what American rule really means. But our need for a mighty navy will be greater than ever. Congress meets in a little over a month. One of its first duties will be to make up the deficiencies that remain in our naval establishment. Six battle ships and three armored cruisers already authorized have not been begun because of an idiotic squabble about armor plates. Let us have an end of that foolishness by the construction of an armor factory of our own. And then let us provide for ships enough, in addition to those now authorized, to make our navy in fighting force, if not in numbers, at least equal to that of France.

DRAMATIC AND SOCIAL DEGENERATION.

The success of the crusade against immorality on the stage will be a test of the moral health of New York society. Almost every civilized community has had its theatre, which has mirrored the life of its time. In an age of sound national fibre the drama has been a stimulus to high thoughts. A corrupt stage has been the sign of a corrupt society, and usually of a decadent one.

In the great period of Greek life the theatres presented the noble tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides. The descent from that standard to the moral sinks of Alexandria and Antioch was the exact measure of the descent of the Greek race from the age of Pericles to the age of Cleopatra.

And when Rome ran her course from national health and vigor to national rottenness, her stage reflected every step of her progress. The things that Tigellinus put on the boards for the edification of Nero would have made even Fougere gasp and the proprietors of "The Girl from Maxim's" weep with envy. The decadent theatre was the image of the decadent nation, and the healthy barbarians from the North swept both out together.

When virtue seemed to have been forgotten in England under Charles II., and fashionable life became a rout of vicious indulgence, the shameless Restoration comedy drove the stately Elizabethan dramatists from the stage. And with a recovery of health in society came a corresponding purification of the theatre.

We do not believe that New York is decadent. The dramatic immoralities that have made such melancholy progress here within the past few years are exotics that have no real correspondence with the life of the people. The fact that we have to import our indecencies from Paris is proof that our soil is not naturally fitted for their production. But the drama is not only a mirror, it is a force. When it continually presents immoral images it tends to produce a demoralization that might not exist without it. This is the same city in which "Orange Blossoms" was driven from the stage only three years ago. Our education in vice has been so rapid that worse things than "Orange Blossoms" have ceased to occasion even passing comment, and we are only wondering now how far the next manager will dare to go.

When the Roman drama degenerated from tragedy to comic pantomime, which in its turn became merely the medium of indecent revelation, its decay was both an effect and a cause of the decay of society. It received demoralization from its surroundings and passed it on in an intenser degree. And this infection of the drama with social poison became in the end one of the elements in the ruin of the Roman State.

We know now where such things lead, and it is our business to stop them while there is time. We can cut out the rotten spot now, and leave a healthy society, but the longer we wait the farther the spot will spread. The experiment of a "wide open" stage has been tried long enough in New York. Let us leave that sort of thing to Paris.

Why There Is So Little Love in Marriage.

By Guy de Roncieres.

"But the true marriages, entered into from deep affection, how few are they;—and how happy!"

THE following is selected from a book which has just appeared in Paris, where it has aroused considerable discussion. The author, Guy de Roncieres, is one of France's most popular writers. The title of the book is "Why There Is No Harmony in Marriage." It was written for the French, yet it applies with peculiar fitness to our own land.

MARRIAGE is a great beneficence in its essence—if it has not been made false by decadent morals—a beneficence, as is everything that comes direct from the hand of God. This union of two souls, of two hearts, of two minds, of two energies, for the pursuit of a common aim, is all the more sublime on this earth, where everything seems so vain, futile and incoherent.

Find, if you can at the present time, a woman who is so independent that she is free from all worldly prejudices and ready made thoughts—one whose practical knowledge of life will make her a companion and partner of her husband in all his undertakings—one, in fine, whose untouched heart gives her wholly to her husband; for whom there is no solitude or ennui where he is.

Ah! be yourselves—in all simplicity. You are women—that is to say, personifications of grace, love and devotion; be content with this, to be this now and forever, and your lot is indeed enviable. The truth of your sentiments is strong enough to prevail everywhere; and it is this verity, in the midst of the artificial rubbish of a decadent civilization, which ought to rule with all of the superiority of the natural over the artificial.

The woman of our day is not so because of fatal errors in her education. She is naturally her mother's charge. No relation is more beautifully intimate than that of mother and daughter. The germs of character begin to develop. Now is the time for the mother to cultivate that virgin heart, that soul, which is just beginning to reveal itself. Now can she remove from that intelligence the dust of vanity which might cover it entirely. Now she may mould that body itself into a good and worthy envelope of the rarest qualities! But, on the contrary, this is the period in which the annihilation of her character begins, when the righteous soul of the child is made false, when the freshness of feeling is banished, when the thousand little vanities of the world are introduced to obscure the grand horizon of earlier days. That mind, so open in a moment to all that should interest her nobly and usefully, dreams now of naught save dresses and dances, visits and worldliness; the true view of life escapes her, and, saddest of all, she does not know it—she only smiles. The artificial has killed the natural.

In the education of the son no less serious errors are committed. He has been brought up so carefully that he has neither decision of character nor energy. He has a certain faculty which seems to be paralyzed—his will. How could it be otherwise, when his parents have always willed for him? He withdraws, by instinct, from all that is simple; he likes nothing but the refinements of complicated life. He is a private in the advance guard of a civilization driven to excess. He is a dilettante in life. He enjoys nothing, fears nothing—neither difficulties nor troubles. But his family vaunts itself upon his amiability, his distinction, without considering his frivolity, which is hardly a sufficient basis for his future life.

With these subjects the marriages are manufactured. What can the result be? See that young man with reddened eyes and pale, strained face, who talks to you quietly enough: he has in his heart thousands of sobs to which he will not, cannot give vent. They are wearing away his heart all the more surely because they are kept back. What lies at the source of these tears? An unworthy wife? Perhaps; but there need be no scandal. She is coquettish, thoughtless, extravagant; and it may be that she is simply an egoist, whose icy demeanor can never be melted by the affection of her husband.

The hearth is cold; it attracts neither husband nor wife. Everything that ought not to be there is there—little sulks, high pitched voices, violent outbursts, unbroken silences—never that sane and frank affection, those "childish" coaxings which testify to our happiness, and that we are not afraid to show it. It is noteworthy as shedding no small light on this subject that we are almost ashamed to admit that we love one another as married people should. Madame! do not extinguish too completely the bright flame of your love for your husband. What if there are some who are dazzled and smile! What do you care for the smile of a fool? Your husband will compensate you at the fireside, and that flame will not dazzle, it will warm him.

The family is drying up at its source; none of the bonds which united it once can continue to exist in our burning circumstances, and the disintegration hastens on like a contagion. Instead of confidence, sincerity and intimacy, we find defiance, indifference and coldness. The struggle for existence further accentuates the difficulties in the home, driving us from the hearth to the saloon. It is logical. The instinct for pleasure, for enjoyment, has been enthroned on the ruins of duty. Instead of the devotion prescribed by Christianity, we have the worship of self, egoism and enjoyment.

Perhaps marriage is not alone to blame, but the conditions under which we work. The husband is separated from his wife all day, and they have neither the time nor the inclination to gather round their own fireside. But false conceptions of marriage have much to do with existing troubles.

There are three elements in man: I.—A soul which above all demands satisfaction. II.—A combination of faculties, mind, heart and will. III.—A body, which certainly has its wants, but which comes, and should necessarily come, last. The secret of happiness lies in the feeding of these three elements in man as well as possible, commencing with the first and ending with the last, always remembering the individual for whom this nourishment is intended. To-day we follow an inverted order and are astonished at the ill results of marriage.

I cannot conceive marriage without love, but——

We have marriages for money, when the fortunes are weighed and form the chief element in the union. The joys of the heart, which we used to call sacred; the elevated satisfaction of soul; the inward pleasure of duty done—all these worthy elements of happiness are too immaterial to turn the coarse scales in which purses are weighed. In this age of the glorification of matter we want something more palpable.

By the side of this first element in modern marriage we see another closely allied to it—that is vanity, which gives birth to the "mariage de convenance." To it the most worthy aspirations are sacrificed. The supreme power of public opinion, of "what they will say," is a guide to whom all listen most sympathetically. It is effect for which all strive. The rind of the marriage is considered more than the marriage itself; more regard is paid to public opinion than to the happiness of those wedded.

Then there are marriages of passion, of despair, of loneliness, but the true marriages, entered into from deep affection, how few are they—and how happy!

Pneumonia: Its Prevention and Cure.

By J. J. Walsh, M. D., Ph. D.

"Pneumonia can be avoided more easily than cured."

IF a man reaches the age of twenty-five in good health he is, barring accident, practically assured of living till sixty, unless he is carried off by typhoid fever or pneumonia. Of the two, pneumonia is by far the more dreadful. It gives but a few short days of warning before the fatal termination. We have scarcely heard of a friend's sickness before his death is announced. Careful supervision of the water supplies of large cities has greatly reduced the mortality from typhoid—it has practically eradicated the disease in Berlin, Vienna and Munich—but no way of limiting the ravages of pneumonia has yet been found.

After a remission of virulence during the late Spring and the Summer, it begins in the Fall to get in its deadly work, and the number of deaths from it increases each month till April. While it does not despise the weaklings by the way, it delights to take off the very flower of the living. Excluding tuberculosis, more than fifty per cent of the deaths in adults during the Winter months are due to pneumonia.

How to avoid the disease is, then, a very serious question. Pneumonia is without doubt usually due to cold, but rarely, if ever, due to cold alone. The cause of the disease is a microscopic plant, one of the disease germs of which we hear so much nowadays. It was first discovered nearly twenty years ago by Surgeon-General Sternberg, not in a case of pneumonia, but in the saliva of a healthy person. Normal human saliva when injected into the smaller animals, as guinea pigs or rabbits, frequently causes death. It was while investigating this subject that General Sternberg found that the deadly element in the saliva in the fatal cases was a micrococcus.

Further study, especially in Germany, showed this microbe to be the cause of pneumonia. It has been found, in all civilized countries at least, to be an almost constant dweller in the human mouth. It looks like a paradox to say that we carry the germ of pneumonia with us all the time while comparatively so few contract the disease. The reason is not far to seek. Cold decreases our power of resistance by lowering the vitality, and so the invasion of the microbe is permitted.

The history of cases of pneumonia generally shows how important is this lowering of vitality in the causation of the disease. But it is not the cold alone that plays the important role in the development of pneumonia. Patients usually tell of having been overtired at the time of their exposure to cold. They have been overworked for some time, they have lost one or more night's sleep, they are laboring under severe emotion—grief, worry and the like—or they have been losing flesh for some time. Often the disturbance of normal health is but temporary. A meal is missed, or, owing to the press of business, several in succession are taken hurriedly and incompletely, or there is some excess, alcoholic or other, then comes the exposure to cold and—pneumonia.

The secondary factors are really the important ones. Pneumonia is not prevalent in countries in proportion to the severity of their climates. It is much more common in large cities than in the country. The hurry and bustle of life, the never relaxing tension of competition, the struggle for existence, tempt the inhabitants of cities to that neglect of the plainest rules of health which makes exposure to cold serious. Nature has an ample provision of conservative force stored away to protect us from cold, but her economy is disturbed by neglect.

There is another important circumstance that accounts for the occurrence of pneumonia so frequently in cold weather and its constant increase in frequency until the warm weather comes once more. It is the custom to think of microbes as always harmful. Nothing is further from the truth. The number of microbes of benefit to mankind is as legion compared to those that do harm. The mouth is constantly the habitat of a large variety of microbes. They constitute what is known as the flora of the mouth, just as we talk of the flora—that is, the plant life—of a country. Now, of the flora of the mouth many species, instead of being harmful, are helpful to digestion and to other natural processes. Certain of them particularly prevent the growth of other microbes that might be harmful.

Metschnikoff, the distinguished Russian scientist whom Russian official intolerance drove to France, to the sorrow of all intelligent Russians, has demonstrated at the Pasteur Institute the quality of microbes to favor or hinder the growth of other microbes. He inoculated a plate of gelatine with the cholera vibrio, the cause of Asiatic cholera.

After waiting some hours, but before any of the cholera germs had begun to grow visibly, he inoculated the plate with two other microbes, one of which he knew favored, while the other hindered, the growth of the cholera germ. These second inoculations were made in two lines, cross-shaped. Along one of these lines the cholera germs grew with special luxuriance; along the other they failed to grow at all. Even where the lines crossed there was no growth, while for some distance from the point of intersection the growth was much sparser along the line where the favoring germs had been sown than in the rest of that line. The inhibitory microbes, as they are called, possessed enough influence to counteract that of the favorable microbe entirely.

In Winter the microbes that hinder a too luxuriant growth of the germ of pneumonia in the mouth do not flourish as well as in warm weather. Larger plants differ very much in their behavior to cold, so that it is not surprising that microscopic plants should also show differences. It has been demonstrated experimentally in the laboratory that the germ of pneumonia does resist cold well. It grows at low temperatures at which other pathogenic germs absolutely refuse to flourish. An important principle, then, in guarding against pneumonia is to keep the mouth healthy. Wash it out frequently but gently, and not with new fangled antiseptics that do more harm than good; have decaying teeth filled, as they invite the presence of flora foreign to the mouth; especially keep the stomach in good condition, since disturbance there always alters the normal condition of the mouth.

Now, pneumonia, except in the very young and the very old, is seldom fatal of itself. It is practically always a complication that causes fatal termination in patients from fifteen to fifty-five years of age. If the heart and kidneys are healthy when the pneumonia is contracted, then patients between these ages never die, unless they have exhausted themselves at the beginning of the disease by being up and about when they should have been in bed. In pneumonia, as in typhoid fever, this is the great danger for the robust. They hope to shake off the ill feeling. They are tempted to be out. Ambulant cases, that is, cases that have been walking about during the first days of their disease, proverbially do badly. Every hour out of bed after the disease has declared itself adds seriously to the danger of fatal termination.

Usually pneumonia begins with a chill. No one can afford to neglect this warning in cold weather. Until it is definitely known what condition is going to develop the patient should remain in bed—at least within doors. Sometimes there is only a feeling of weakness, with a pronounced tendency to freer sweating than usual, and a vague sense of discomfort in the lung into which the pneumonia is insidiously stealing. If these symptoms occur after exposure to dry, severe cold, especially in windy weather and at a time when some disturbance of regular habits of life has occurred just previously, then prudence dictates the utmost care until assurance is obtained that pneumonia is not developing.

Unlike other infectious diseases, pneumonia, instead of protecting from, predisposes the patient to subsequent attacks. One out of four, at least, of patients who recover from pneumonia has the disease again. They must be especially on their guard. Fatal cases of pneumonia among the middle aged occur particularly in hard drinkers, and in those suffering from some chronic lung trouble, or whose heart or kidneys are affected. If any one of the limbs of the tripod of health—heart, kidneys, lungs—is out of order at the time of the attack rescue from a fatal ending will not be easy. For people thus affected avoidance of danger is the hope. They must not expose themselves to cold, especially with empty stomachs, or when overtired run down for any reason. Pneumonia is avoided more easily than cured.